

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 AID-20 CPR-02 DRC-01

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P 131054Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1490

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1811

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SO ET

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI RELATIONS

REF: MOGADISCIO 1804

1. DURING DECEMBER 13 VISIT WITH FONMIN ON OTHER MATTERS, I NOTED THAT ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR'S CAR HAD RECENTLY BEEN FOLLOWED BY TWO SOMALI SECURITY OFFICERS TO GOLF CLUB IN EMBASSY COMPOUND AND AIR LET OUT OF TWO BACK TIRES. I SAID I PERSONALLY DEPLORED ALL VIOLATIONS OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY BUT WAS RAISING THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT BECAUSE IT HAD OCCURRED ON USG PROPERTY.

2. FONMIN ASSERTED THAT SOMALI EMBASSY IN ADDIS HAD BEEN UNDER HARASSMENT FOR THREE MONTHS, WITH HARASSMENT INTENSIFYING IN PAST TEN DAYS. AMBASSADOR HIMSELF HAD BEEN MAN-HANDLED (APPARENT REFERENCE TO ALLEGED INCIDENT SOME TWO MONTHS AGO). SOMALI SECURITY AUTHORITIES HAD ENGINEERED RETALIATORY ACTION WITHOUT CONSULTING FONMIN.

3. FONMIN THEN STATED THAT ON DECEMBER 12, IN ACCORDANCE PRIOR
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AGREEMENT WITH IEG, COL. ALI JAMA WAS BEING TAKEN IN SOMALI

EMBASSY CAR TO UNHCR OFFICE IN ADDIS, ACCOMPANIED BY TWO SOMALI EMBASSY OFFICERS AND FOLLOWED BY UNHCR CAR. ETHIOPIAN SECURITY POLICE HAD STOPPED CAR OUTSIDE UNHCR OFFICE, BEATEN SOMALI EMBASSY OFFICIALS WITH RIFLE BUTTS AND TAKEN JAMA AWAY. FONMIN SAID GSDR IS IN PROCESS OF DECIDING WHAT ACTION TO TAKE IN LIGHT OF THIS.

4. FONMIN CONCLUDED THAT HE REGRETTED THAT SOMALIS HAD INVOLVED US PROPERTY IN THIS DISPUTE. IF SOMALIS WERE TO INVOLVE US IT SHOULD BE FOR CONSTRUCTIVE PURPOSES, NOT THE REVERSE.

5. COMMENT: THIS WHOLE MATTER IS ASSUMING INCREASING IMPORTANCE HERE. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO US TO KNOW IF FONMIN'S (AND AYALEW'S - REFTEL) DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS IN ADDIS IS SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT. SUDANESE AMBASSADOR IN MOGADISCIO HAS FLOWN TO KHARTOUM TO BRING MATTER TO PERSONAL ATTENTION OF PRESIDENT NUMAYRI AND TO URGE THAT SUDANESE GOVERNMENT ATTEMPT TO CALM BOTH SIDES.

6. WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW WHAT ACTION GSDR WILL TAKE, BUT WE FEAR THAT JAMA DISPUTE, UNLESS RAPIDLY RESOLVED, HAS POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUSLY COMPLICATING OR EVEN LEADING TO BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA WHICH CLEARLY NOT RPT NOT IN US INTEREST. THEREFORE IT APPEARS TO US THAT IT IS IN US INTEREST TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP DE-FUSE MATTER, PERHAPS BY URGING *EG THAT UNHCR BE PERMITTED TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER JAMA WANTS TO GO TO SOMALIA OR REMAIN IN ETHIOPIA.
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